WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL(WI) 27 September 1985

Opponents dominate hearing on CIA recruiting at UW

By Roger A. Gribble Education reporter

Opponents of Central Intelligence Agency recruiting at UW-Madison outnumbered proponents 3-to-1 Thursday at a mostly orderly hearing conducted by the University Committee, the Faculty Senate's executive committee.

About 100 people showed up for the four-hour hearing in the Memorial Union Theater. Except for an occasional smattering of applause when listeners agreed with a speaker's views or somewhat muffled negative comments, expressing disagreement, the hearing was orderly.

In May the Faculty Senate reaffirmed the CIA's right to recruit on campus but made provision for Thursday's hearing.

The May action followed police use of chemical Mace on April 10 to control anti-CIA demonstrators who stormed a police line in an effort to place a CIA recruiter under "citizens' arrest."

Medicine Professor Peter Eichman, hearing co-chairman, told the audience the University Committee will present a report on hearing testimony to the senate at its Oct. 7 meeting.

Genetics Professor Millard Susman, University Committee chairman, said the hearing report is the only agenda item concerning CIA recruiting.

Ken Lawrence, editor of "Covert Action Information Bulletin, said the sequence of events surrounding the senate position on CIA recruiting and the hearing gave him a feeling of "first the verdict, then the trial."

Opponents of CIA recruiting cited a list of CIA abuses which included de-stabilizing governments, assassinations and domestic spying. "The CIA's very presence here poisons this university," Lawrence declared. "It has in the past and it will in the future."

Mary Kay Baum, a lawyer and Madison School Board member, said CIA efforts to overthrow legitimate governments are "criminal violations of the War Powers Law. As an alumna, I ask you to tell the CIA you do not invite them to use university facilities," she told committee members.

"I have trouble knowing where to draw lines," replied Professor Joel Robbins, a hearing co-chairman. "Should we allow Union Carbide to recruit?"

(More than 2,000 people were killed in a methyl isocyanate leak at the firm's Bhopal, India, plant on Dec. 3.)

"There is a lot of gray (about that), but the CIA is so far over the other side," Ms. Baum replied.

Professor James Marks, engineering placement director, said he was speaking for "all placement officers on campus in support of the right of all students to be interviewed. The university faculty has long maintained recruitment services to serve all students.

"A faculty document says scheduling of interviews doesn't imply uni-

versity support of employers' activities," he added. "It's fallacious to argue that because some things the CIA does are illegal, all of its activities are illegal."

During a question period, Marks debated with student speakers in the audience over whether students attempted to disrupt CIA recruiting in April. One student said, "We didn't disrupt classes."

"That's wrong; you did," Marks re-

Matthew Rothschild, Progressive magazine associate editor, said although he opposes recruiting on campus by all prospective employers, "the CIA is a special case." Among its purposes, he said, are falsehood, dragging morality through the mud, murder and torture.

"It is the Mafia of the U.S. government," Rothschild said.

Law Professor Gordon Baldwin, said, "We can't prohibit interviews to some employers. . . . We have a moral obligation to permit a sufficient number to be recruited for government service."

Others speaking in opposition to CIA recruiting included Josephine Rentz, past president of the Madison branch of the International League for Peace and Freedom, Ald. Rosa Escamilla, 5th District, and Arie Carmi.

Others supporting CIA recruiting were two representatives of College Republicans and Susan Merrick, an Army intelligence officer who said she was speaking for herself.